

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Files

DATE: FEB 27 1979

FROM : Richard E. Salmi
Staff Inspector

Richard E. Salmi

SUBJECT: MK-ULTRA
AC-AI-77-F0342

former files

During the summer of 1977, the Central Intelligence Agency discovered a series of files which indicated unwitting drug testing on unidentified human subjects at safe houses which were funded by the CIA and operated by former Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN) personnel at New York and San Francisco from 1953 to 1966. The CIA released salient documents to the Drug Enforcement Administration, and during September 1977, the Office of Internal Security initiated an investigation relative to the FBN's involvement with the CIA in the unwitting testing on humans in the project identified as MK-ULTRA. The scope of DEA investigation included the following:

- A. Determine the involvement of FBN personnel in the CIA project.
- B. Determine the details of the activities and the locations.
- C. Determine how the program was funded and under what authority.
- D. Determine if DEA is currently involved with the CIA in projects of a similar nature.

It is noted that the investigation was limited to the above areas and no attempts were made to identify the unknown number alleged victims of the drug experiments in the safe houses.

The IN investigation revealed that from May 1953 to April 1966, FBN cooperated with the CIA in the establishing and maintaining of safe houses in the New York and San Francisco areas. With the exception of the late George H. White, the investigation did not identify any DEA or predecessor agency employee involved with the CIA in any drug testing. A review of the available information indicates that the CIA established the project for the unwitting testing of drugs on human subjects. Further, the investigation



revealed that the Drug Enforcement Administration is not currently cooperating with the CIA in any safe house activity. Additionally, no records were located that indicate that DEA or predecessor agencies provided drugs to the CIA.

During September 1977, several current and former representatives of DEA and CIA testified during Senate hearings before the Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research of the Committee on Human Resources. As a result of the discovery of partial MK-ULTRA files and the Senate hearings, Admiral Turner, Director of the CIA, stated the CIA would make every effort possible to reconstruct the MK-ULTRA projects and to identify any unwitting subjects who had been drugged. MK-ULTRA was an "umbrella project" under which there were 149 sensitive sub-projects involving research into behavioral modification, drug acquisition and testing or administering drugs surreptitiously.

From the Fall of 1977 through most of 1978, the CIA reconstructed most of the MK-ULTRA subprojects except those dealing with unwitting drug testing at the safe houses in New York and San Francisco. During the Fall of 1978, the Department of Justice opined that there is a duty on the part of the Government to seek out and notify persons who may have been harmed as a result of their having been used as unwitting subjects of drug experimentation.

In a letter dated January 10, 1979, Admiral Turner requested that Attorney General Bell have someone designated to work in concert with the CIA to pursue this investigation. On January 25, 1979, the Attorney General replied to Admiral Turner's letter and advised that the Drug Enforcement Administration would designate someone to work with the CIA. On February 5, 1979, Administrator Bensinger informed Admiral Turner that I had been designated as DEA's Project Officer.

On February 9, 1979, I received a call from Mr. [REDACTED], Special Assistant to the Deputy Director Administration, CIA. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he is CIA's project officer in this endeavor and requested I come to CIA Headquarters as soon as possible. That afternoon I spent three hours with Mr. [REDACTED]. On February 15 and 16, I spent the entire working hours at CIA Headquarters with Mr. [REDACTED] of the Office of Technical

Services exchanging views, ideas and file research. Mr. [REDACTED] and I will be conducting the actual investigations into attempting to identify the "victims." In a meeting with a CIA attorney, on February 16, 1979, the investigative scope and guidelines were explained to both me and Mr. [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] and I have extensive research at our respective agencies, and it is anticipated we will be leaving for San Francisco during the week of March 19, 1979. While in the San Francisco area, we will copy and research White's diaries for additional leads, research a September 1977 San Francisco radio broadcast and interview current and former DEA employees. It is estimated that 20 to 25 current and former DEA and CIA employees will have to be contacted or re-contacted, either in person or by telephone. The persons to be contacted are located in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, San Diego, Arizona, Florida, Chicago, New York and Washington, D. C.